

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 L-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 GSA-01 INT-05 /042 W

----- 126778

R 231455Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5319

INFO AMCONSUL GENOA BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, IT

SUBJECT: RUTILE DEPOSIT IN ITALY

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY ITALIAN ENTREPRENEUR SEEKING TO ASCERTAIN USG AND/OR POSSIBLE US-COMPANY INTEREST IN EXPLOITATION OF DEPOSIT ESTIMATED AT 30 MILLION METRIC TONS (AND PERHAPS AS MUCH AS ONE BILLION TONS) ECLOGITE CONTAINING 4-8 PERCENT RUTILE. INITIAL STEP WOULD BE INDICATION OF SUPPORT, WHICH WOULD HELP, ACCORDING TO ENTREPRENEUR, TO OBTAIN CONCESSION FROM GOI. ONCE CONCESSION OBTAINED, PILOT PLANT WOULD BE BUILT (WITH ITALIAN CAPITAL) TO PROCESS 3 THOUSAND TONS/DAY WHICH WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INDUSTRIAL DIMENSIONS PROCESSING 20 THOUSAND TONS/DAY ECLOGITE. FOREIGN PARTICIPATION, UP TO 50 PERCENT, WOULD BE WELCOMED AFTER PILOT PLANT PHASE COMPLETED.

2. MAJOR FEAR OF ENTREPRENEUR IS THAT WORD OF DISCOVERY WILL LEAK PRIOR TO HIS OBTAINING CONCESSION, EXPECTED WITHIN THREE MONTHS. HE CONSIDERS IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT MAJOR ITALIAN MINING INTERESTS, EGAM OR MONTEDISON (MONTECATINI-EDISON), DO NOT RPT NOT LEARN OF RUTILE DEPOSIT AND MAKE COMPETING CLAIM FOR CONCESSION.

3. EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO EVALUATE QUALIFICATIONS OF
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ENTREPRENEUR, WHO HEADS SMALL, VIRTUALLY-UNKNOWN COMPANY.

HE COMES WELL INTRODUCED, HOWEVER, AND WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT HIS DISCOVERY IS WORTH CHECKING OUT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON AGENCIES' EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL USG OR PRIVATE INDUSTRY INTEREST, WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT DISCUSSING DISCOVERY OUTSIDE USG. IF POSITIVE INTEREST EXISTS, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE LIST OF US COMPANIES AND OFFICIAL WITHIN EACH COMPANY WHICH ENTREPRENEUR COULD CONTACT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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